



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Elul + Tishrei + Cheshvan 5771 • September + October 2011

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Tikkun Olam/Social Justice Committee Workshops

SEPTEMBER 16 AND OCTOBER 21, 6:00 PM

CSZ's Tikkun Olam/Social Justice (SFOP) Committee is hosting a series of workshops during our new meeting time to help us all better understand what is happening in Sacramento and how we can influence it. Walk away with tangible things you can do TODAY to change the fate of our state.

Friday Night Live

SEPTEMBER 23, 6:00 PM

A Shabbat designed for 0 to 6 year-olds, followed by dinner in the Oneg Room.

High Holy Days

Begin with S'lichot on September 24 and continue through Yom Kippur on October 8.

Shabbat Sukkot

OCTOBER 14

Shabbat service to celebrate the beginning of Sukkot, followed by a service Saturday morning in our sukkah in Dolores Park.

Simchat Torah Service

OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM

Special Shabbat service with song, a Klezmer band, and dancing.

Visioning Our Future

ALEX INGERSOLL, FOR THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Imagine Imagine if you will that you're reading a newspaper article about Congregation Sha'ar Zahav five or six years in the future. What are the key points the article makes about what we've done, why they're writing the article now, what accomplishments are we celebrating? Perhaps a significant work of new liturgy has brought this recognition? Perhaps an innovation in some other area? Perhaps they're writing to celebrate our being a center for queer Jewish culture or to note our remarkable inclusiveness? Maybe we finally have achieved some real financial security through congregational growth, even more amazing member support and the remarkable strength of Our Legacy Community campaign? How do you see Sha'ar Zahav in a few years?

This was the opening exercise at CSZ's annual Leadership Advance held July 15-17 at Westerbecke Ranch in Sonoma. Some 45 of us spent the weekend doing very preliminary visioning of our future, led by facilitator Susan Colson, our Strategic Planning consultant Jamie Woolf and Strategic Planning Committee chair Alisa Gilden. And as with any such imagining, we also thought about what some of the principal challenges might be as we try to implement the resulting plan. As President Karen Schiller announced at the Annual Meeting last May, strategic planning is happening at Sha'ar Zahav.

In coming months, members will be invited to participate in small group discussions, in larger town hall meetings and in online surveys – all to tap your thoughts about who we are and what should be our future direction. That is, who we want to be and can be! An initial committee has formed and is meeting with increasing frequency; subcommittees are focusing on information gathering from our members and community, on data collection from various internal and external sources, and on communication with members. We have an aggressive schedule – namely to present a Strategic Plan to the congregation at our annual meeting in May 2012.

We'll be soliciting your thoughts – members, clergy & staff — and periodically sharing our compilations to make sure we're on track. If you just can't wait or would like to work with the committee, we can be reached at strategicplanning@shaarzahav.org.

Meanwhile, your turn! Imagine if you will what would be in that article. Perhaps you're even writing it. In 5 years, or 10 years, what would be highlighted about Congregation Sha'ar Zahav? What are the current aspects which we've maintained? What is new or more enhanced? Just imagine

T'shuvah, Again!



T'SHUVAH is a Hebrew noun derived from the three letter root that means "turn" or "return." It presumes that our lives have a direction and a purpose. It also presumes that we frequently forget this truth, and lose our way or actually move in the opposite direction. T'shuvah is the process whereby we set an intention and, when we inevitably stray, we remember and return to the initial intention. Beginning a new year calls us to reset our intention. This year, as in years past, we set before us the intention to cultivate and live with hope, tikvah.

One of my favorite cartoons is of a family in the desert, dressed as Bedouins on their camels. They seem to have all their packages and possessions in tow. There is a mommy and a daddy in the lead and the children coming behind on their little camels. The first box of the cartoon says, "Are we there yet?" Then the daddy says back to the kids, "What are you talking about? We're nomads for crying out loud!"

In truth, we are all nomads. Why else would we keep coming back around to the new year, to another cycle of Torah reading and calendar keeping and intention setting. For crying out loud, here we are again. Rather than feeling no sense of progression, I find the process of t'shuvah restorative and hopeful.

T'shuvah requires taking stock of where we are in relation to where we want to be. We are called out of denial and into awareness — mapping out where we have taken missteps in all of our relationships. And, rather than falling face-first off our camels, we take the time to turn ourselves in a better direction, and remember our intention to move onward with hope.

Hope is a well-spring of radical optimism. Hope enables us to believe that, despite whatever mistakes we made in our lives and despite the effects of any painful legacy we may have inherited, there is always the possibility of healing and redemption.

Living with hope can help us to mend broken hearts. Hope can distract us from our anxiety about loss and move

us through the real grief that comes when we have our hearts broken. We are called to act *as if* life is about to change for the better. And when we act that way, our actions can make life better. Hope contains spectacular power, as though it captures bits of the bursting energy of Creation. Often, hope appears in the loving acts we do for others and that others do for us. In fact, when we are depressed and feeling hopeless, Judaism teaches us to perform mitzvot as an antidote to feeling miserable. Jewish medicine prescribes a set of obligations that require us to be of use on a daily basis. Reaching out to others helps us from feeling buried in self-pity.

According to rabbinic legend, the Messiah will be born on Tisha B'Av, the saddest day of the year, the day that commemorates the greatest national calamities in Jewish history, when Jerusalem was destroyed, not once but twice. On this very day, the Messiah, the one anointed by God to usher in the age of unprecedented peace, will be born. This points to a powerful and abiding hopefulness, one deeply embedded in the Jewish soul. God plants the seeds of hope on the bleakest of days, when hope is most needed.

As a rabbi, I have always felt that I have a duty to be hopeful, to believe in our potential, that we can and do make positive contributions. Yes, I believe that despite the fact that the world is unfair — indeed, because the world is unfair and unkind — we are called to do justice and to show kindness; and that is the purpose for which we were created. Because the world breaks our hearts, we have a responsibility to help one another. Our deeds matter and we stand accountable for the lives we live.

On Rosh Hashanah morning, we will once again read the Torah portion which tells the story of Hagar and Ishmael, when they were cast into the wilderness by Abraham and Sarah. It is the account of a mother who reaches rock bottom, giving up all hope that she can keep her son alive in the desert, with their meager supply of water used up. In distress and agony, Hagar casts the boy under a bush, sits a distance away, and weeps aloud, "I will not look on" (continued on page 13)

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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L'shanah tovah!



A HAPPY and healthy new year to you and yours.

I love the concept of a "new year." Here is a chance to think about the past, while looking toward the future. Although you can never totally wipe the slate clean, with the

new year, you can decide that all those old mistakes and bad choices don't have the power to determine how you move forward. You can celebrate what you did well, and use those accomplishments as jumping off points to create something new and wonderful in your life.

There are four new years in the Jewish calendar: (a) Nisan 1, the first month of our calendar; (b) Tishrei 1, Rosh Hashanah; (c) Elul 1, the new year for animal tithes; and (d) Tu B'shvat (Shvat 15), the new year of the trees and agricultural tithes. Of course, nowadays we only celebrate two of the four — Rosh Hashanah and Tu B'shvat — but it's kind of nice knowing that we come from a history that gives us four days of fresh starts and possibilities.

In my own life I celebrate two new years — Tishrei 1, Rosh Hashanah, and July 1, the start of a new fiscal year. January 1 isn't really important to me; in the flow of my life there isn't much difference between December 31 and January 1. But, as a nonprofit accountant, I love what happens on July 1. My beginning balances all change to zero. I literally empty out files, review accounts, and start out fresh. I even have to engage with a higher authority — in this case, the auditor, not G-d — and try to fix what I did wrong last year while promising to do better in the upcoming year. I help the rest of my work community to set goals (a budget) and I even have a bible to guide my work (otherwise called a Policies and Procedures Manual).

Coincidentally, Rosh Hashanah falls soon after the start of the new fiscal year. In fact, because it takes time to prepare for an audit (so in Jewish tradition, Elul, the month before Tishrei, is a time to prepare for Rosh Hashanah), I usually have to interrupt the audit of my financial accounts to take time off for the audit of my soul's accounts. Finally, both my

audits conclude, and the past is behind me, although I carry with me lessons learned, promises made, and goals for the future.

This year I will mark another new year — the start of my second year as president of Sha'ar Zahav. During the High Holidays, I will have a chance to celebrate with you the good that happened over the past year, to ask your forgiveness for my mistakes, and to look to the future. One thing I have rediscovered over the past year is that we are an engaged, innovative, thoughtful and holy community, and the possibilities of what we can create together are endless.

Of course, endless possibilities can sometimes be overwhelming, so during this next year, we will prioritize what we want to accomplish, and create a strategic plan for our future. If you were at our Annual Meeting in May, you met Alisa Gilden, our member who has stepped up to lead the Strategic Planning committee, and Jamie Woolf, the consultant we have hired to help us through the process. Over the next few months, they, along with the Strategic Planning committee and the Va'ad, will be asking you to participate in a focus group, take a survey, or come to a town hall meeting, so that your dreams, concerns, and aspirations for our community can be heard. Please say yes when you are asked. Your voice is important to us. If somehow we miss asking you, please know that wasn't deliberate and we do want to hear from you. You can reach me at president@shaarzahav.org or the Strategic Planning committee at strategicplanning@shaarzahav.org. (For more about Strategic Planning, please see the article on page 1.)

In a recent Friday night drash, Rabbi Angel reminded us to appreciate the journeys we are on. I am so grateful to be on this journey with you, and I look forward to what we will create together in 5772.

May this new year bring health and happiness, peace and prosperity to each of us, to our community and to all the nations of the world. L'shanah tovah.

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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Commemoration of 9/11 Attacks

SEPTEMBER 9, 7:30 PM

Join us for a special Shabbat service commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Tikkun Olam/Social Justice (SFOP) meeting

SEPTEMBER 16, 6:00 PM

Concerned about the future of California's health care system? Public schools? Taxes? Essential public services? So are we! CSZ's Tikkun Olam/Social Justice Committee is hosting a series of workshops during our new meeting time to help us all better understand what is happening in Sacramento and how we can influence it. The first workshop was August 19th, and the last one will be October 21, but our meetings will continue to be open to the congregation, from 6 pm to 7:15pm on the 3rd Fridays of the month. Walk away with tangible things you can do TODAY to change the fate of our state.

Shabbes Beat Musical Shabbat Service

SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 PM

Tenderloin Senior Luncheon for Rosh Hashanah

SEPTEMBER 23, LUNCHTIME

As the holidays approach are you missing your elderly loved ones?

Here's a chance to spend time with some seniors before the High Holidays and bring light & laughter into their lives and yours too! Come join Rabbi Angel and CSZ members in a special mitzvah. We are sponsoring the JFCS Tenderloin Outreach Program Luncheon for seniors on Friday afternoon September 23rd. Rabbi Angel will conduct a brief service then we will serve lunch and schmooze with the participants. If you would like to

join us please contact Florence Nacamulli at 415-468-3237.

Friday Night Live

SEPTEMBER 23, 6:00 PM

Shabbat Shalom, people of youth! Come celebrate a Shabbat specially designed for 0 to 6 year-olds. Our FNL service is followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. We will provide pizza (sponsored by parents), and we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well. We are delighted to be welcoming Isaac Zones and Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe back for another great year of Friday Night Live.

Please note we've had to make some scheduling changes for FNL in the coming year. It will *not* be happening on the first Friday of the month, but on the fourth or final Friday. Put these dates on your calendar. The kids will not want to miss even one.

SEPTEMBER 23; OCTOBER 28; NOVEMBER (NO FNL); DEC 23; JAN 27; FEB 24; MARCH 30; APRIL (NO FNL) MAY 25

If you have any questions please e-mail Kim Lezin-Haveson, the new FNL contact person, at: kimhaveson@gmail.com

And please consider sponsoring the program by sending a check for \$150 (for one evening) or for any amount to be added to our fund to provide dinner for families.

S'lichot Service

SEPTEMBER 24, 8:00 PM

An introspective, reflective service that commences the High Holy Day season. For centuries, Jews have gathered in synagogues on Saturday evening near Rosh Hashanah to prepare for the sacred season of self-scrutiny and renewal with a service called Selichot, "forgiveness." We will begin with Havdalah, marking the end of Shabbat, and will continue with a moving service. Explore High Holiday musical and religious themes as they touch our emotions and move us toward self-judgment and new resolutions. This hour of worship is one of the most inspiring of the year.

High Holy Days: See calendar on page 7

Tashlich Picnic and Service

SEPTEMBER 29, 2PM

The Tashlich brown-bag (bring-your-own) picnic will begin at 2:00 pm on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, followed by a service at 3:00 pm. This year Tashlich returns to the East Beach at Crissy Field.

Kever Avot v'Imahot (Hills of Eternity Cemetery)

OCTOBER 2, 10-11:30 AM

Please join us for a brief service at the graveside of friends and family who are buried in our synagogue's cemetery. Services will be led by Sha'ar Zahav member Paul Cohen and Rabbi Angel. Food and shared memories will follow services.

Shabbat Sukkot

OCTOBER 14, 7:30 PM

Come and celebrate the beginning of Sukkot. This service will be led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein and Joy Ladin. In the 1980's, Joy (then Jay) Ladin was one of Sha'ar Zahav's few heterosexual male members. In 2007, she began living full-time as a woman — a decision that made her the first openly transgender employee of Yeshiva University, a modern Orthodox university where she had just received tenure. Her return to teaching at Yeshiva in 2008 made headlines and sparked discussions around the Jewish world. Her memoir of her transition, *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders*, will be published by University of Wisconsin Press in spring 2012, and she has spoken and published widely about gender and Judaism. She is also the author of five books of poetry, including *Transmigration*, a 2009 Lambda Literary Award finalist.

Sukkot in Dolores Park

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 10:15 A.M.

Celebrate Sukkot in the sukkah! A special musical Shabbat morning service, including bensching lulav and Hallel, will be held at our new sukkah in Dolores Park. Kid-dush, motzi, and pot-luck vegetarian picnic to follow. Look for our green sukkah on the east side of the park, near Dolores Street.

Yizkor Service

OCTOBER 19, 10:00 AM

All are welcome to join CSZ as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remem-

brance. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held at the end of Sukkot. All are welcome to join the community to say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

Erev Simchat Torah Family Service

OCTOBER 19, 6:30 PM

Simchat Torah Service

OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM

Join Sha'ar Zahav for a festive celebration of Simchat Torah. At this special Shabbat service, we celebrate completing and renewing again our annual cycle of reading the Torah, with song, a Klezmer band, and dancing.

Chavurot

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 6:00 PM

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30,

adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jisrael68@yahoo.com.

Post-Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AND OCTOBER 21,

9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join Sha'ar Zahav's Post Oneg Group for a pay-your-own-way dinner at a local restaurant. We welcome all current, prospective, or new members. For more information, please contact Jim Accera, jacerra@msn.com

Meetings

Va'ad Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6:45 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to Sha'ar Zahav's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

Ritual Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011, 7:00 PM.

High Holy Day Review. All are welcome to attend.

Looking Ahead

NOVEMBER 18

Trans-Remembrance Shabbat

NOVEMBER 22

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

DECEMBER 23

Family Service 6 pm

Klezmer Shabbat 8:15 pm

JANUARY 28, 2012

Cantor Unplugged V 8:00 pm

Cantor Sharon Bernstein and Friends
Annual Concert

A delightful and magical musical event

FEBRUARY 3 & 4

Scholar in Residence with Andrea Hodos

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Shalom BSPM Community



I HOPE you are having a wonderful summer full of rest and relaxation. There has been a lot of action at BSPM over the summer. We

have hired staff, planned events for next year and re-examined the curriculum so that we can have deep learning this year.

We have hired all our teachers:

Jessie Austin and Andrea Gurerra as Ge'avah teachers

Tae Kramer as our Shinnui teacher

Marti Rawlings Fein as our Kehilla teacher

Rabbi David Bauer as our Kadimah teacher

Andrea Guerra, Ila Cerny, and Zahava Culbertson will all be teaching in our Hebrew program.

We have so many exciting things to look forward to this year. Some of the highlights are: (1) three re-imagined and re-energized Shabbat Simchas; (2) class potlucks and sleepovers at the synagogue; and (3) a fantastic Bnei Mitzvah class; and (4) many many simchas!!!

Are you looking for more ways to get involved in BSPM? Here are a few opportunities to consider:

Join the Child Education Board; we meet monthly and it is a great way to support the school.

Volunteer to be on one of these committees: Curriculum, Shabbat Simcha, Community Retreat.

Do a drash at opening circle (We are inviting parents this year to join in on the fun and lend their words of Torah).

Volunteer to help with our Shul sleepovers.

I have spent the summer working on the curriculum and meeting with teachers. Our teachers are so excited about starting at BSPM; they are full of enthusiasm and great lessons.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon at school!

B'Shalom,
Rebecca

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Shabbat Class
Begin Unit- Holiness
- 14 Wednesday Class –
Hebrew School Starts
- 17 Shabbat Class
- 21 Wednesday Class
- 24 Shabbat Class
- 28 Erev Rosh Hashanah -
No Wed. Class

OCTOBER

- 1 Shabbat Class-
- 5 Wednesday Class
- 8 Yom Kippur – No Shabbat Class
- 12 Erev Sukkot – No Wednesday Class
- 15 Shabbat Class
- 16 Family Sukkot Celebration
- 19 Erev Simchat Torah –Simchat Torah
Family Celebration 6:00
No Wednesday Class
- 21 Ge'avah Family potluck and
sleepover,.
- 22 Shabbat Class
- 26 Wednesday Class
- 29 Shabbat Class- Celebration
of Learning

NOVEMBER

- 2 Wednesday Class
- 5 Hazel Olson Dorf's Bat Mitzvah
Shabbat Class – Begin unit - Jewish
Journeys
- 9 Wednesday Class
- 12 Shabbat Class –
Emma Simonoff's Bat Mitzvah
- 16 Wednesday Class
- 19 Shabbat Class- SHABBAT SIMCHA
- 23 NO BEIT SEFER
- 26 NO BEIT SEFER
- 30 Wednesday Class

DECEMBER

- 3 Shabbat Class –
Carly Ryan's Bat Mitzvah
- 7 Wednesday Class
- 9 Family Chanukah Celebration- 6:00
- 10 Shabbat Class –
Benjamin Gustavson-Scharf's
Bar Mitzvah
- 14 Wednesday Class
- 17 Shabbat Class –
Nina Patchell's Bat Mitzvah
- 21 NO BEIT SEFER
- 24 NO BEIT SEFER
- 28 NO BEIT SEFER
- 31 NO BEIT SEFER

JANUARY

- 4 Wednesday Class
- 7 Shabbat Class –
Sophie Hogan-Cytron's Bat Mitzvah
- 11 Wednesday Class
- 14 NO BEIT SEFER
- 18 Wednesday Class
- 20 Shinnui Family Potluck and sleepover
- 21 Shabbat Class
- 25 Wednesday Class
- 28 Shabbat Class

FEBRUARY

- 1 Wednesday Class
- 4 Shabbat Class- Celebration
of Learning
- 8 Wednesday Class
- 11 Shabbat Class-SHABBAT SIMCHA
- 15 Wednesday Class
- 18 NO BEIT SEFER
- 22 Wednesday Class
- 25 Shabbat Class Begin Unit- People of
the Book
- 29 Wednesday Class

MARCH

- 3 Shabbat Class- PURIM
CARNIVAL/SPIEL
- 7 Wednesday Class
- 10 Shabbat Class
- 14 Wednesday Class
- 17 Shabbat Class
- 21 Wednesday Class
- 23 Kehillah Family Potluck
and sleepover
- 24 Shabbat Class
- 28 Wednesday Class
- 31 Shabbat Class

APRIL

- 4 Wednesday Class
- 7 NO BEIT SEFER
- 11 NO BEIT SEFER
- 14 NO BEIT SEFER
- 18 Wednesday Class
- 21 Shabbat Class –
Avidan Novogrodsky-Godt's
Bar Mitzvah
- 25 Wednesday Class
- 27 Kadimah Family Potluck and sleepover
- 28 Shabbat Class

MAY

- 2 Wednesday Class
- 5 Saturday Class-
SHABBAT SIMCHA
- 9 Wednesday Class
- 12 Saturday Class
- 16 Wednesday Class
- 19 Saturday Class- LAST DAY
OF SCHOOL- Celebration of Learning,
Teacher Appreciation
- 26 Elias Rose's Bar Mitzvah

JUNE

- 2 Deanna Schemmel Shapiro's
Bat Mitzvah

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High Holy Days Calendar

Rosh Hashanah

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

7:30 p.m. Ma'ariv
(Oneg to follow)*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

9:30 a.m. Shacharit & Musaf*
9:30 a.m. Family Services
2:00 p.m. Tashlich brown-bag picnic
(@ Crissy Field)
3:00 p.m. Tashlich service
(@ Crissy Field)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

9:30 a.m. Shacharit & Musaf
(@ CSZ)

Yom Kippur

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

9:30 a.m. Shacharit & Musaf*
9:30 a.m. Family Services
1:30 p.m. Mincha Service
2:30 p.m. Niggun Service
3:30 p.m. Names service
3:30 p.m. Study Sessions, 1A, 1B
4:30 p.m. Study Sessions, 2A, 2B
5:30 p.m. Yizkor & Neilah*
7:30 p.m. Break fast

**Ticket Required*

Tikkun Olam, CSZ, and SFOP

DANA VINICOFF AND RUBY CYMROT-WU

CSZ's Tikkun Olam (Social Justice) Committee has been taking the lead with our friends in (SFOP) to fix some of the problems that our community shared with us about in our last listening campaign. Almost 2 years ago, we heard your worries and pain about declining public education and healthcare systems, the economy in crisis, limited access to the things we need to live such as affordable and healthy food, non-existent resources for caring for the aging, and fear about the future of our planet. We did not take our task lightly, and quickly launched into a research campaign that helped us understand what is causing our pain. What we found: our state financial health is declining and Sacramento's process for making fiscal decisions needs a major overhaul if it is going to serve the needs of all Californians. State revenues have been shrinking along with the economy and many lawmakers have pledged never to raise taxes. Thus, government-supported services and safety nets depend on claiming their bits of a continually shrinking pie. Our K-12 education system, for example, has slid from the best in the

county to nearly the worst. This doesn't make sense. And it's not fair.

We've been researching state government to figure out how things got so bad and what we can do about it. About a year ago, we worked together with staff and leaders of SFOP and PICO California to host a forum at CSZ featuring the historical insights, diagnoses, and prescriptions for state government by two published authors, Mark Paul, and Peter Shrag. In June, we joined about a thousand people from across the state in Sacramento to demand that a small handful of state legislators agree to extend a few existing taxes that would take California out of debt and avoid additional massive cuts to public education and social services.

We've traveled all over California with the CSZ community in our hearts and your stories in our minds. But our efforts are incomplete without your hands in this work. And so we are bringing the conversation home. The Tikkun Olam (Social Justice) Committee is hosting a series of workshops during our new meeting time (3rd Fridays at 6pm) — on August 19, September 16, and October 21. Each month we will discuss a new topic, but all workshops are connected by a central theme: how can we better understand what is happening in Sacramento and what we can do to get our state moving in a more just direction.

PRACTICE AREAS

Divorce
Domestic Partner Dissolution
Separation
Property & Pension Distribution
Alimony
Custody
Visitation
Child Support
Restraining Orders
Paternity
Pre-Marital Agreements
Post-Divorce Disputes
Modification of Orders
Appeals



We recognize that a Family Law matter is one of the most difficult challenges that you may face—whether in a traditional or alternative family setting.

PERSONAL ATTENTION

THOUGHTFUL LITIGATION

FINAL RESOLUTION



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Adult Education Fund

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in honor of Allan Gold's major birthday.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in appreciation of Cantor Bernstein.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

John Arnold in honor of Jon Funk's birthday.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in memory of Alan Harap

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in appreciation of Shaun Hannan and Regina Wurst. "Welcome back, Molly."

in memory of Evelyn Bergson.

in memory of Bernice Becker.

in honor of Marc Wernick's engagement to David Gerson.

Henry Carrey in memory of his mother, Leyke-Post Carrey.

in memory of his zeyde, Shloyme Postolov.

Paul & Victoria Ehrlich

Alan Foss & David Larico in memory of Benjamin Sieradzki.

Elizabeth Katz in memory of Joseph Katz, MD.

David Lowe

Laura Lowe

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Hunter Austin.

Sharyn Saslafsky in memory of Marc Frantz.

Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado in memory of Marc Frantz.

Robert Tat in memory of Lee Shotland.

Ami Zusman in memory of Marc Frantz. in honor of Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher's marriage.

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Ami Zusman in honor of Matthew Rawlings-Fein.

in honor of Elias Ross-Trupin's bar mitzvah.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein "Welcome back, Camille."

Batya Kalis in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

Rainbow Fund 5771

Ilana Drummond & Sharon Dulberg

Terry Fletcher & Glen Hauer in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Andy Fyne & Richard Mikles

Clarissa Kripke & Gail Ludwig in honor of Duke Crestfield.

Joan Lefkowitz & Stacey Shuster

Irene Ogus

Karren Shorofsky & Carolyn Reiser

Deborah Udin & Lucy Cefalu

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

June

3/4

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
Drew Parker-Rose & Flavio Epstein *In honor of Carol Dawson-Rose's welcoming into the covenant*

10/11

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
Martin & Shelli Rawlings-Fein *In honor of the naming of their son, Matthew Zvi Rawlings-Fein*

Saturday Kiddush Generously
Sponsored by **Deb Kinney** *In honor of Hazel Olson-Dorf*

17/18

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Michael & Sarita Moss** *In honor of the forthcoming wedding of their son, Steven, to Melissa Foster*

24/25

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Ali, Jessica & Raffi Cannon** *In memory of Pat Cannon, beloved mother & grandmother, on her one year Yahrzeit*

Pride Shabbat Oneg Generously
Underwritten by **The LGBT Alliance of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund**

July

8/9

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Arnie Jackson** *In memory of Richard Wright*

22/23

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Barbara Cymrot, Ruby and Amalia Cymrot-Wu** *In loving memory of Martin Cymrot, father and grandfather*

29/30

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum** *In celebration of Rabbi Angel and Martin on the bimah*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav *In honor of Rabbi Angel's return from sabbatical*



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The Follow-Up to the Israel Survey Committee Seeks Volunteers to be Trained as Facilitators

The Follow up to the Israel Survey Committee (FISC) is busy planning a series of programs dedicated to a balanced discussion of the Israel/Palestinian situation that will begin next fall. The programming will be a mix of ideas from most parts of the spectrum and will include speakers, cultural events, panel discussions and more.

The leadership of the congregation and FISC feel that facilitated discussions must be part of all the programming provided to give everyone in attendance a safe place in which to give voice to their beliefs and feelings.

To give all of our members the chance to be an integral part of this discussion, we have contracted with the Philadelphia-based Jewish Dialogue Group to train nine to fifteen of our members to be facilitators of these discussions. The Jewish Dialogue Group has been facilitating these discussions with synagogues and other groups for 10 years and has developed a training to teach us how to facilitate our

own discussions. This is a unique opportunity for our congregants to learn skills that they may not already have, or to strengthen their existing facilitation skills. The training will take place on Sunday, October 23, 2011.

No previous experience as a facilitator is necessary. Participants must be able to commit to be available for at least half of the scheduled events and have a desire to facilitate tough discussions.

This is your chance to become more than just a participant; you can become an important part of this discussion and help strengthen CSZ's commitment to sharing all voices. To apply for the program, go to [ADD HYPERLINK]. The deadline for application is September 23. For further information or an application, contact Davey Schlasko at [ADD DAVEY'S CONTACT INFO HERE] shlasko@gmail.com or 845-417-6518.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Read the JGF? Love the JGF? OK, Like the JGF?

If so, help us out! We are looking for the following "staff":

Ad Sales—why aren't Church St. Restaurants, Castro clubs, and medical professionals advertising with us? Make the JGF self-supporting by selling ads!

Asst. Editor—interested in publishing? Are you well-organized and good with words? Learn a new skill by helping out with the JGF!

Contact Regina Wurst at regina@shaarzahav.org

Our Legacy Community

This campaign, launched in July has reached a number of members — all of whom have pledged to the campaign. We are grateful to the following who have completed their “Letter of Intent” to leave a bequest to Congregation Sha’ar Zahav — either in their will or by naming CSZ as beneficiary on their IRA or other retirement accounts:

Jesse (Shai) Begley
James Carlson
Sarita Groisser
Ron Lezell
Deborah Levy
Marc Lipschutz
Eileen Lynette
Irene Ogus
Karen Schiller
Larry Wexler
Dennis R. Ybarra

We look forward to reaching out to our membership during the next 2 years to ask for a bequest to the Our Legacy Community campaign.

If you’d like to meet with a member of the Legacy committee to complete your own “Letter of Intent,” or if you’ve already remembered us in your will and want to let us know, please contact me - Irene Ogus, keenireneo@sbcglobal.net

We’ve only just begun!

Irene

T’shuvah, Again!

(continued from page 2)

as the child dies.” It is at this moment of despair that Hagar hears the voice of a Godly messenger.

In contrast to Hagar’s anguish, the heavenly voice is gentle, almost nonchalant—in Hebrew, he says, “Ma lach, Hagar?” This could be translated most literally as “What’s with you, Hagar?” The divine messenger seems to be implying that Hagar is premature in her distress. He goes on to tell her not to be afraid — a lovely play on words, for the words for “sight” and for “fear” are very similar in Hebrew. When the angel says “do not be afraid,” “al-tiri,” he is both evoking and negating Hagar’s statement, “al-ereh,” “I will not look on.” The suggestion here is that Hagar’s eyes have been closed with fear. When she is able to open them again, she sees a well of water—a well that does not miraculously appear, but has been there all along, unseen, waiting to be found.

The miracle that God performed for Hagar and Ishmael is very subtle. God didn’t place a well in Hagar’s path. The only miracle God performed was to open Hagar’s eyes so she could see what had been standing before her all along. The well had been there from the start but she felt too defeated to see it.

“Come, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand,” instructs the angel, — v’ha-kha-ziki et yadiekh bo — shorash is khazak — grasp your hand in his — “strengthen” your hand in his — says the messenger, as if to say the strength to

hope comes from grasping the hand of another — parent, child or some other relationship — our strength comes through the hands of those we love.

New beginnings are often unexpected. They occur at a threshold where the old is passing away and we don’t yet know what is going to happen. We may think that life is coming to an end; like Hagar, we may want to close our eyes and shut out hope. But hope is a strong, spiritual force. It responds to the human craving for meaning in a senseless world. Hope is determined. Hope is insistent and persistent and arrives as a manifestation of the Divine. Hope feels like a spectacular energy; it is a natural source located deep within every one of us. Its curative forces enable us to transform our cynicism and resist surrender.

Yes, hope springs eternal! Just as Rosh Hashanah comes each year offering us the gift of a new, fresh start, so too, we should take seriously the opportunity to make some real changes in our patterns. Our past need not determine our future. Not only can the past be healed, we actually have the power to transform it into a redemptive force in our lives - for ourselves, our families and friends, and all living beings everywhere.

May 5772 bring each of us a new measure of zest for being present to the Mystery; a new capacity to be affected by hopeful energy and a new willingness to be a source of loving-kindness, an angel of hope for others.

I look forward to greeting you and deepening our connection as we strengthen our community in the coming year.

Life Cycles

Mazel tov to Carol Dawson-Rose on her welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel tov to Marty and Shelli Rawlings-Fein on the baby-naming of their son Matthew Zvi Rawlings-Fein.

Mazel tov to Steve Moss and Melissa Foster on their July 3rd wedding.

Naches

Congratulations to Paul Margolis on becoming Mr. March for the 2012 Bare Chest calendar! Beneficiaries of calendar proceeds are the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Positive Resource Center.

Mazel tov to Gail Ludwig on starting a new position as the Gift Planning Officer for the ACLU of Northern California.

Mazel tov to Ryan Buchholz on graduating from CIIS (California Institute for Integral Studies) with a Master's in Somatic Psychology.

Thanks to all who participated in Pride Shabbat. It was wonderful!

A big thank you to **Ben Lunine** for

organizing the Pride Parade contingent.

Mazel tov and Congratulations to **Ilana Sherer** for finishing her residency in Pediatrics on June 30th. She was part of UCSF's Pediatric Leadership for the Underserved program, and was instrumental in starting a clinic for gender-variant children. She began work at Palo Alto Medical Foundation as well as Children's Hospital Oakland in late August.

Mazel tov to Avidan Novogrodsky-Godt who walked on the Jewish Community AIDS Walk Team and raised \$1156 through his AIDS Walk page.

Mazel tov to **Tiela Chalmers** on receiving two awards, one for the Legal Aid Association of California's Legal Services Attorney of the Year, and the other for National Pro Bono Professional's Tanya Neiman Pro Bono Professional of the Year.

Be a Sponsor!

Commemorate a Yahrzeit, celebrate a special occasion, honor someone special by providing food after services (oneg/kiddush), beautiful flowers for our sanctuary, or the Friday Night Live pizza dinner.

Friday Oneg (\$180 & \$280)

Shabbat Kiddush (please contact Regina Wurst)

Bimah Flowers (\$130)

Friday Night Live Dinner (\$150)

Partial sponsorships available

To make this special kind of donation please contact Regina Wurst, regina@shaarzahav.org

Condolences

To Stephen Shotland on the loss of his mother, Lee Shotland.

To Amelia Nahman on the loss of her great uncle, Burton Young.

To Jerry Geffner on the loss of his sister, Marleen Doctorow

To Patricia Y.C.E. Lin on the loss of her aunt, Ming-Mei Yu.

To Alex Austin on the loss of his brother, Hunter Austin.

To Lauren Augusta on the loss of her mother, Gertrude Augusta.

To Martin Rawlings Fein on the loss of his uncle, Joseph Frietas.

To Ben Lunine on the loss of his aunt, Sarah Schumann.

To Neil Hart and David Wasserman on the loss of their friend, Nora Norden.

To James Moser on the loss of his father, Dr. Jonny Moser.

To James Carlson on the loss of his stepbrother, Peter Johnson.

Member Yahrzeits

September

- 1 John Golebowski
- 3 Lee Gierson
- 5 Frances Pechter
- 6 Elliot Klein
- 11 Daniel McGoldrick
- 15 David Pierce
- 18 Penny Dachinger
- 20 Edward Wolberg
- 25 Jeffrey Lewis Cohen

October

- 3 Rabbi Benjamin Marcus
- 6 Jeffrey Miller
- 8 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 12 Andrew Zysman
- 13 Harry Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr

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